

**REMARKS**

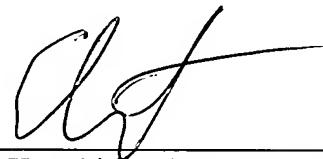
The specification is amended pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78 to provide a reference to each prior filed application from which this application claims the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in good and proper order for allowance and early notification to this effect is solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 17, 2006



---

Adam K. Whiting (Reg. No. 44,400)  
Elisabeth Everts (Reg. No. 50,304)

HOWREY LLP

2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
Telephone No.: (650) 798-3524  
Facsimile No.: (650) 798-3600